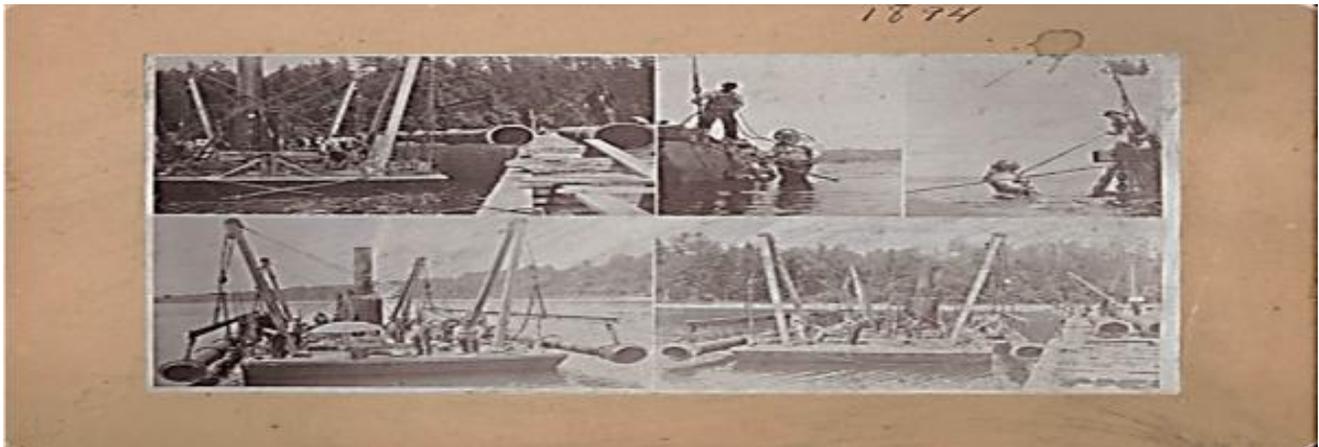




In 1894, the City was gearing up for another large project—a new 24" cast iron intake line to be installed 30 feet deep into Lake Champlain. Each section was laid in 75 foot intervals connected by ball valves.



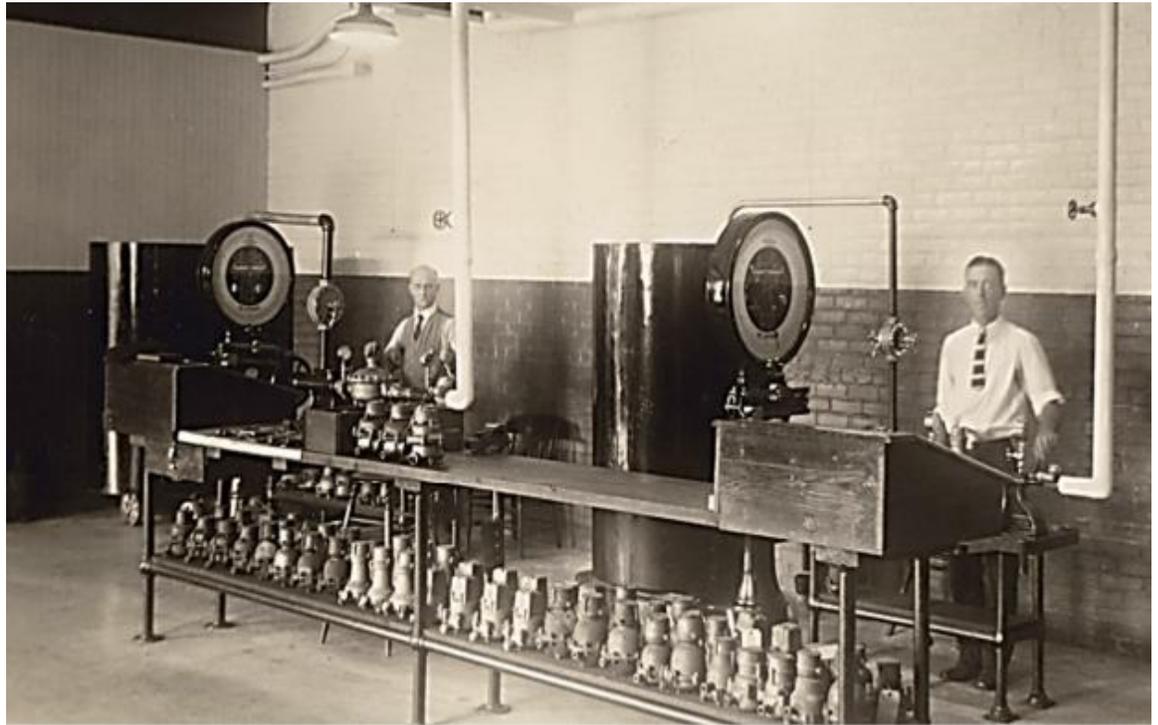
In the early 1900's with the City and surrounding communities growing rapidly the need for a water treatment plant was becoming evident. A special committee was selected and after much debate it was determined that the City would move forward with a rapid sand filtration plant. Construction on the plant would be finished in 1908 and provide water to 20,700 residents who consumed at a rate of 1.5 MGD via 45 miles of mains, 236 hydrants and 3,280 meters.





In 1914, the City would take another step forward in public safety by adding hypochlorite of lime to the water filters. Typhoid fever cases were still being reported within the City and chlorine disinfection had recently been proven effective in other parts of the United States.

The year 1934 would see the construction start on an elevated water tank on the Redstone campus. The tank, which held 150,000 gallons, was created to increase flow and pressure to the high service area of the City. In 1954, the high service area would once again require the building of another elevated tank. After a piece of land was donated, the 500,000 gallon tank was constructed to provide increased usage to UVM, Fletcher Allen and the northern section of the City.



The City's filtration plant would not need any major changes until the 1940's and, in 1948, due to increased consumption; four new filters were added to the plant. The plant was now providing water to 31,000 people who were consuming at a rate of 2.5 MGD. In 1952, at the recommendation of the State Health Department, the City began fluoridating the water.

Burlington would once again take a major step forward in public health when work was completed on the City's first wastewater treatment plant in 1953. The treatment process would be made up of clarification and chlorination with anaerobic sludge digestion and would be designed to handle 3.7 MGD. The plant would process the sewer for a majority of the City, excluding North Avenue, Riverside Avenue and Colchester Avenue. 1959 and 1963 saw the completion of the North and East treatment plants that would process sewer from the previously excluded areas of the City. Three secondary treatment plants were added in 1973 and they increased pollutant removal to 95%.

The Safe Water Drinking Act would be passed by Congress in 1974 and this would spark a review of Burlington's water treatment system. In 1981, voters overwhelmingly passed a plan for the construction of a new water treatment plant and concrete reservoir covers. The covers were completed in 1982 and the construction and dedication of the Francis J. O'Brien Water Treatment Facility was complete in 1984.

